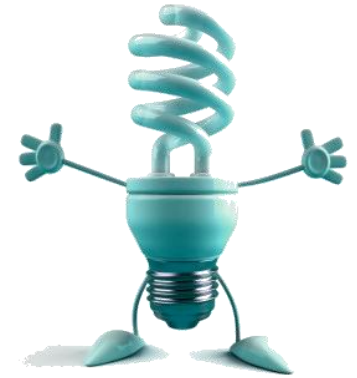


# Volunteer Frederick's Energy Action Corps



A volunteer-led residential green living, carbon reducing, and energy conservation initiative for Frederick County and City of Frederick residents



Volunteer  
Frederick



# GLOBAL WARMING REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND TIME HORIZONS

## 1. LEGISLATION

– 5 TO 10 YEARS

## 2. SCALING UP NEW TECHNOLOGIES

– 10 YEARS PLUS

## 3. SCALING UP RENEWAL ENERGY

– 10 YEARS PLUS

## 4. CONSERVATION

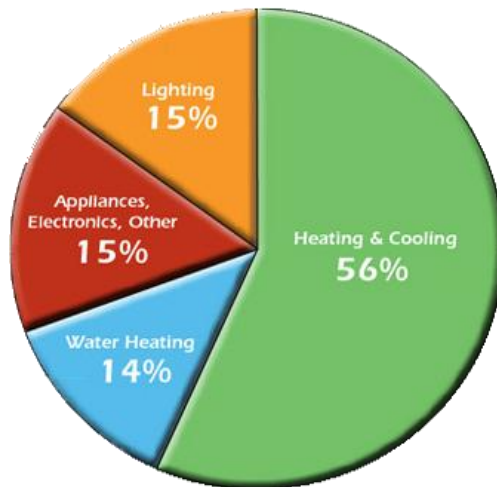
– **AVAILABLE NOW!**



Energy Action Corps

# Why a Community Energy Conservation Program is necessary

- 21% of US energy use is in residential sector
- Households emit half of US total carbon
- Typical US household generates 55,000 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> (51% more than Germany; 73% more than Sweden)



Household energy  
consumption  
percentages

Provided by the US  
Department of Energy



Energy Action Corps

# Why There's Hope

## Power of Large Numbers

### Small actions multiplied by 110 million households

- Swapping 1 incandescent with 1 CFL saves enough electricity to power all homes in DE and RI
- With properly inflated tires Americans could save 4 million gallons of gas each day.



# Energy Action Corps

## Goals:

- Recruit and train volunteers to lead Eco-Team or coach individuals
- Help households reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions by 5,000 lbs
- Educate and engage residents in the global energy and climate conservation initiative.
- Focus on low-income families



**Energy Action Corps**

# Two Approaches for EAC implementation

## Two Target member groups

### Approaches

- Without Grant Funds:
  - **Low Carbon Diet Program**
- With Grant Funds:
  - **Energy Action House Calls**

### Targets

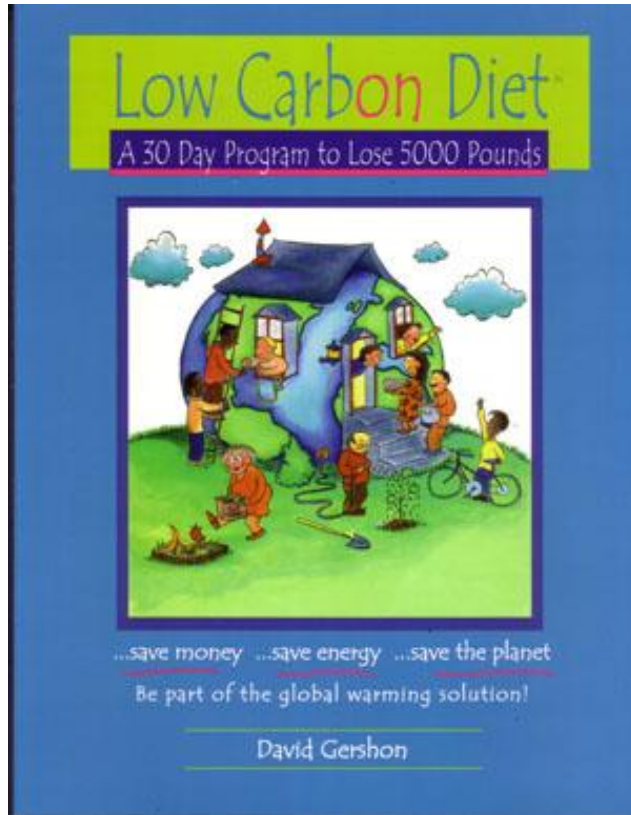
- Community at Large
- Low income families



**Energy Action Corps**

# First Approach - Without Funds:

## Low Carbon Diet Program



**Volunteers & participants learn about:**

- **Climate change**
- **Monetary benefits of being energy efficient**
- **Household energy conservation actions**



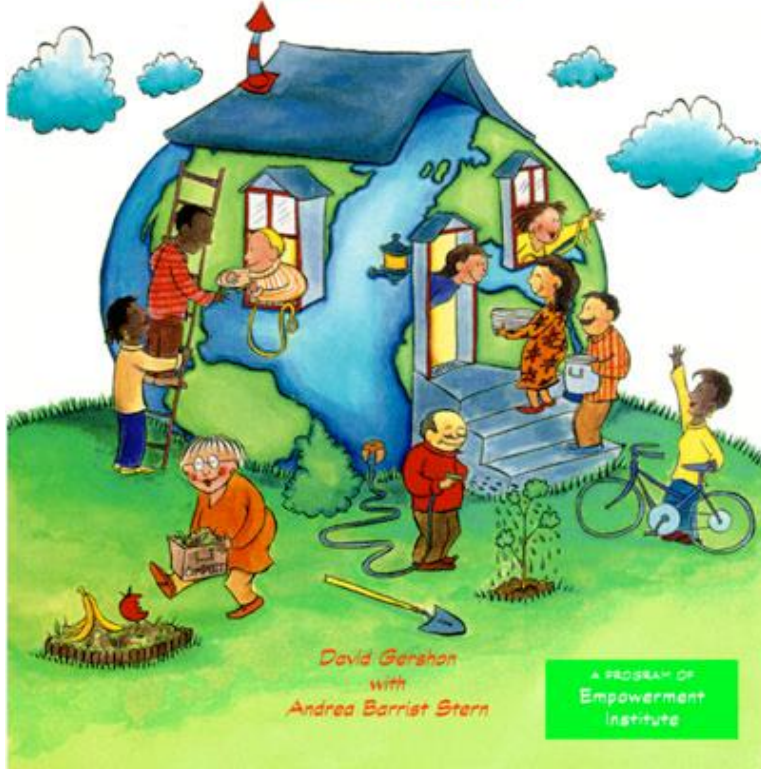
**Energy Action Corps**



# ECO-TEAMS

## ECOTEAM™

*A Program Empowering Americans to Create  
Earth-Friendly Lifestyles*



## Volunteer Team Leaders

- Trained to lead Eco-Teams
- Recruit **3-8 individuals or households**
  - Eco-Team members can be recruited through friends, colleagues, social groups or faith congregations.
- Lead and support Eco-Teams through 4 meeting process



Energy Action Corps



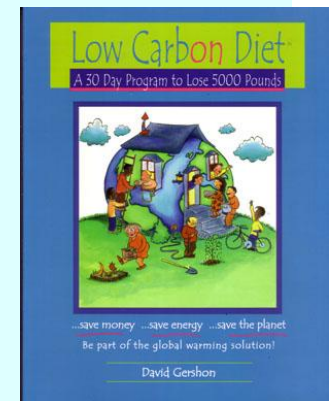
# Low Carbon Diet Book

## Cool Lifestyle Practices

- Trash
- Hot Water
- Cooling
- Heating
- Electricity

## Cool Household Systems

- Hot Water Heater
- Lighting
- Furnace
- Insulation
- Driving



Energy Action Corps

# Low Carbon Diet Program is Measurable



Pg. 48-49 in LCD workbook lists amount of CO<sub>2</sub> one reduces through each energy saving action.

- Sum reductions at conclusion of Eco-Team or Coaching
- Sum pledges for future reductions



Energy Action Corps

# LCD Program is Successful!

- **Portland, Oregon**
  - LCD pilot program in was able to achieve an average household CO2 reduction of 22%.
- **MASS Climate Action Network**
  - Low Carbon Living (LowCal): started 2007 in Newton, MA
  - Success of LowCal led to a multi-county Cool Mass initiative in fall 2009
- **Color Brighton Green:** Brighton, NY
  - Started fall 2008: Goal to reduce household carbon emissions by 10 %. Success of pilot program led to the large-scale Cool Rochester initiative
- **Cool Rochester:** Starting fall 2009
  - Goal of helping residents of the greater-Rochester area save one billion pounds of CO2 emissions by the end of 2012



**Energy Action Corps**

# Can Take LCD Program Community Wide



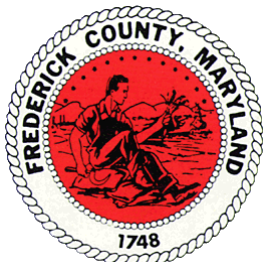
- Global Warming Café
  - Motivational 4-hour retreat/focus group for key community sectors (government, business, education, faith communities...)
  - Set community goals to reach percentage of population
  - Sector representatives invited to participate in community wide initiative; pledges to host Eco-Teams
- Launch of **Cool Community** initiative
  - Increased support from government, businesses, etc. is needed to implement and be successful



Energy Action Corps

# Where Program can be Easily Implemented

- County employees, within departments
- Faith Communities
- Social Networks
- Parent Associations



## Second Approach: With Funds

# Energy Action House Calls



Trained volunteers make **House Calls** to low-income families, providing education and installing **energy conservation products**.

- Youth volunteers serve with a professional Home Energy Auditor through VF's SummerServe program
- Adult volunteers serve in pairs
- Fuel Fund Clients referred by Religious Coalition



Energy Action Corps

## Modeled after



- Launched in 2007 by the non-profit Acterra, CA
- Provides free home energy house calls
  - Volunteers educate homeowners about sustainable living practices.
  - Install energy saving devices
- Success in two Palo Alto neighborhoods led to the expansion to 4 other communities in fall 2008.
  - Fall 2007 recruited and trained 40 volunteers and carried out 37 House Calls



Energy Action Corps



# Energy Action House Calls Feasibility



- Have a successful model to follow: Geen@Home
  - Provides manuals
    - How to start a House Call Program
    - Volunteer Training Manuals
- Can be Incorporated with existing VF SummerServe Youth Service program
- Partnership with Religious Coalition to refer suitable Fuel Fund clients to EAC
- But need funds!



Energy Action Corps

# Energy Action House Calls



- Where we have applied for funds for supplies, etc:
  - MD Energy Administration 🤔
  - Home Depot Building Better Communities Grant 🤔
  - Wal-Mart State Giving Grant
  - State Farm Youth Advisory Board Grant
  - Community Foundation of Frederick County



# Challenges



- Change in Leadership
  - Will EAC be a priority for new Executive Director of VF?
- Lacking funds and staffing
  - Energy Action Corps Coordinator: AmeriCorps VISTA
    - Only staff member working on EAC until August 2010
    - Replacement VISTA position is uncertain



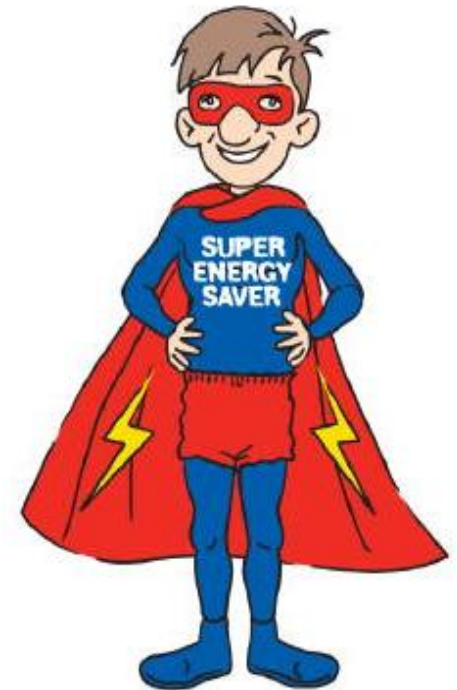
**Energy Action Corps**

# Join Energy Action Corps!

## Become a Super Energy Saver

- Be on the EAC Advisory Team
- Promote EAC in Government and through out the community
- Create Sustainability Commission Eco-Team
- Informational meeting Nov. 12, 5:30-6:30pm at Frederick C. Burr Artz Library

**Contact Rebecca Robinson at VF:**  
**[rebeccar@volunteerfrederick.org](mailto:rebeccar@volunteerfrederick.org)**  
**Phone: 301-663-5214 ext. 2#**



**Energy Action Corps**